AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims without prejudice, such that this listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

We Claim:

1 – 34 (CANCELED).

35. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A system for restraining occupants of a motor vehicle, comprising:

a) a plurality of inflatable members mounted on the vehicle and collectively positioned in substantially surrounding relation to an occupant;

b) a fluid source connected to said plurality of inflatable members;

c) a pressure sensing assembly disposed to sense pressure of at least some of said plurality of inflatable members;

d) a plurality of impact detectors positioned to detect a location of an impact between said motor vehicle and an object;

e) a processor operatively connected to said pressure sensing assembly, said fluid source, and said impact detectors;

f) each of said inflatable members cooperatively structured with said fluid source and said processor to inflate into an operative orientation upon instructions from said processor;

g) wherein said processor provides instructions for selectively and sequentially inflating said inflatable members in response to a detected location of an impact, and for regulating pressure within said inflatable members.

36. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A system as recited in claim 35, wherein a first one of said inflatable members located intermediate an occupant location and said detected impact location is inflated, and subsequently at least a second one of said inflatable members located opposite from said first inflatable member is inflated.

37. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A system as recited in claim 35, wherein said processor receives vehicle speed information, and regulates pressure in said inflatable members based in part on said vehicle speed information.

38. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A system as recited in claim 35, wherein said processor receives occupant weight information and regulates pressure in said inflatable members based in part on said occupant weight information.

39. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A system as recited in claim 38, wherein said processor receives vehicle speed information, and selected inflatable members for inflation based in part on said vehicle speed information.

40. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A system as recited in claim 38, further comprising a user input for providing occupant weight information to said processor.

41. (CANCELLED)

42. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for restraining occupants of a motor vehicle having a plurality of inflatable members mounted on the vehicle and collectively positioned in substantially surrounding relation to an occupant, in an impact involving the motor vehicle, comprising the steps of:

a) detecting a location of the impact on the motor vehicle;

b) in response to the detecting of the location of the impact on the motor vehicle, selectively inflating a first of the inflatable members; and

c) subsequent to said step b), selectively inflating a second of the inflatable members;

wherein said first inflatable member is located intermediate an occupant location and the detected impact location, and the second inflatable member is opposite the first inflatable member.

43. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for restraining occupants of a motor vehicle having a plurality of inflatable members mounted on the vehicle and collectively positioned in substantially surrounding relation to an occupant, in an impact involving the motor vehicle, comprising the steps of:

a) detecting a location of the impact on the motor vehicle;

b) in response to the detecting of the location of the impact on the motor vehicle, selectively inflating a first of the inflatable members; and

c) subsequent to said step b), selectively inflating a second of the inflatable members; and

receiving vehicle speed information, and regulating a pressure in said first inflatable member and a pressure in said second inflatable member based at least in part on said received vehicle speed information.

44. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for restraining occupants of a motor vehicle having a plurality of inflatable members mounted on the vehicle and

collectively positioned in substantially surrounding relation to an occupant, in an impact involving the motor vehicle, comprising the steps of:

a) detecting a location of the impact on the motor vehicle;

b) in response to the detecting of the location of the impact on the motor vehicle, selectively inflating a first of the inflatable members;

c) subsequent to said step b), selectively inflating a second of the inflatable members; and

receiving occupant weight information, and regulating a pressure in said first inflatable member and a pressure in said second inflatable member based at least in part on said occupant weight information.

45. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for restraining occupants of a motor vehicle having a plurality of inflatable members mounted on the vehicle and collectively positioned in substantially surrounding relation to an occupant, in an impact involving the motor vehicle, comprising the steps of:

a) detecting a location of the impact on the motor vehicle;

b) in response to the detecting of the location of the impact on the motor vehicle, selectively inflating a first of the inflatable members; and

c) subsequent to said step b), selectively inflating a second of the inflatable members;

wherein the first inflatable member and the second inflatable member are selected to anticipate rotational motion of an occupant.

46 (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An inflatable restraint assembly for motor vehicles, said restraint assembly comprising:

a) at least one inflatable member mounted within the vehicle adjacent an intended position of an occupant,

b) a fluid source;

c) a permanently open conduit connecting said fluid source in communication with said inflatable member,

~~c)~~ d) a valve assembly mounted in flow regulating relation between said fluid source and said inflatable member,

~~d)~~ e) means for sensing pressure within said inflatable member, and

~~e)~~ f) a processor operatively connected to said valve assembly and said pressure sensing means, wherein said processor actively and continuously regulates pressure within said inflatable member in response to at least an initial impact force of the occupant with said inflatable member.

47. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The inflatable restraint assembly of claim 46, wherein said conduit has a cross-sectional area of at least about one square inch.

48. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The inflatable restraint assembly of claim 46, wherein said conduit has a width at least about 4 times its height.